

THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Publishers

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

CENSORSHIP OF MOVING PICTURES

There is no question but that the moving picture is one of the greatest inventions of the age and, an educational force of great worth. It appeals to the mind through the medium of sight, the most impressionable of all the senses. The possibilities for educational development through the screen, can scarcely be estimated. Through it, a view of the whole world with its numerous activities is placed within the reach of us all.

For several months there has been a nation-wide discussion of censorship of moving pictures. Every influential newspaper and magazine of the nation, including the metropolitan dailies have entered into the discussion, which was brought about by the fact that picture producers have placed upon the market some things that have been a shock to public morals. Certain crime features and exaggerated sex pictures coupled with a ridicule of the marital relations and exhibitions of the nude, have raised objections in all quarters until there is a nation-wide demand that these things be eliminated and scenes really worth while be substituted in their place.

It is natural that the question of censorship should be discussed in Michigan, as well as in other states, and there is a bill before the legislature now which if passed will provide for state censorship in Michigan.

It is also natural that the matter should be discussed in Alma. The city commission has been asked to establish a local censorship, not because the pictures shown in Alma are worse than in other places because such is not the case. As a matter of fact, the Strand Theater in this city is probably not equalled in any other city of this size in the state for its high grade pictures and careful management. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Miller, who are local managers, exercise a good deal of care in selecting what is shown, but owing to the productions of the day, they, like all other managers, sometimes get pictures that contain some of the objectionable features that are meeting with so much discussion at the present time.

Local censorship has been suggested as a remedy, but owing to the great differences of opinion, as to what is objectionable, local censorship would be a very difficult matter and we do not believe it would be successful. There is such a difference of ideas that the choosing of a local board would be next to impossible and there would be great danger of prejudice, injustice, and bigotry beside the chance for grafting and crookedness, all of which is undesirable and would fail to remedy whatever evil might exist.

An analysis of the situation reveals the fact, that in reality there are only a few things that meet with universal disapproval. The Detroit Free Press of March 8th, editorially sizes the situation up in the following trite language. "There are pictures that are flashy, sensational and mentally if not morally hurtful, and those that overemphasize sex and criminality. These distort the mirror instead of presenting a fair, smooth, truthful reflection surface. Such pictures may be in a small minority, but there are enough of them to affect the general reputation of the movie as an institution."

The picture producers have a great responsibility. They have a powerful means and an unlimited possibility for moulding public opinion. What they produce and have thrown upon the screen will have much to do with forming the ideals and fixing the habits of the on-coming generation. Their responsibility is fully equal to that of the press, the pulpit and the school. It is to be hoped that they will recognize the demand on the part of the public for the elimination of objectionable features. This will benefit theatre managers and go a long way toward solving the question of censorship, but in case they fail to do so there will undoubtedly be a law or an ordinance enacted, which will prohibit the showing of certain features the same as there is a law which bars newspapers and periodicals from the mails for the printing of certain objectionable things of a similar nature.

THE DEVIL IS AN ASS

So wrote Ben Johnson away back in the days of Shakespeare. If he had lived now he would have found more illustrations of his theme than he had then.

The Devil has been given credit for great shrewdness. But as a matter of fact he is a very great fool. He is not far sighted. Take for example his management of the American saloon. The saloon was doing the Devil's work well enough twenty or thirty years ago. It was consuming the wages of working men and keeping their families in poverty and wretchedness. It was ruining large numbers of promising young men, it was causing murders and other crimes. It was filling our jails, it was leading to railroad accidents, it was bringing to death many millions of men. The Devil ought to have been satisfied with this. If he had had any common sense he would have been satisfied. But instead of that he led his agents to make the saloon such an intolerable nuisance that the whole nation came to the conclusion that this abomination must be entirely swept out of existence. So the nation rose in its might and smote the monster until it died. And not only this, but it aroused the world to see the awful damage of alcoholism, and to consider methods of destroying it. The Devil ought to have known that this would be the result and if he were not an ass he would have seen it.

The same shortsightedness is seen in his dealings with the German Kaiser. The Kaiser had for many years been building a great war machine. In order to do that he had to grind down his own people by oppressive taxes. He called a million young men away from productive industry and subjected them to a military discipline so severe that many committed suicide. Not only that, but his preparations for war compelled the other nations to maintain vast armaments which oppressed the poor and imposed enormous taxes on all. The suffering thus caused was vast. Money which ought to have been devoted to education and the building of hospitals had to be devoted to preparation for war. The Kaiser, too, prevented at the Hague Conference anything being done to prevent wars, and he had the nation taught to hate other nations and had the school children taught at war was the noblest work of man.

This was good devilry and Satan ought to have been satisfied with it. But he made his usual blunder, and put into the ad of the Kaiser the idea of conquering the world and attaching it as a sort of ornamental appendage to the German Empire. And thus the German Emperor would become the greatest man in criminal of all history. The Kaiser tried and failed, and though he did cause unspeakable misery and desolation for a time, yet he made the world see that war is the greatest curse mankind and all the nations are now planning to devise some means by which it can be prevented altogether. Thus the Devil's dearest weapon is likely to be taken out of his hands.

He might have seen that this would be the case if he carried things too far. But the Devil is not far sighted.

If the stars fought against Sissera they have always been fighting against the Devil. That is, the Devil is fighting against Almighty and therefore his is a losing game. It always has been and it always will be. God is stronger than the Devil and he is farsighted. If Satan had any sense he would see that, and he would give up the struggle.

ENDOWMENT BANQUET
WAS WELL ATTENDED

(Continued from page one)
for Alma the name of the "town that doesn't stop."

Mr. Resler, the final speaker of the evening, spoke highly of Mr. Alen and his ability as a leader in the coming work, and then in a few minutes time indicated to his audience that, while the job would be a hard one, it would not be as hard as many imagined. He called attention to the recent drive at Hillsdale College in which \$80,000 was raised in a single afternoon. Then he made a comparison of the amount that is being sought in Gratiot county with the value of the taxable property of Gratiot, \$55,000,000, showing clearly that the amount is really insignificant as compared with the wealth of Gratiot, one of the richest agricultural counties of the state. The amount sought in the campaign in Gratiot, \$110,000, amounts to just two mills on the dollar of taxable property in the county, he indicated. In spite of the poor weather conditions Tuesday evening, about two hundred and fifty members of the Chamber of Commerce attended the meeting.

DIED FROM INJURIES

Ervin S. McNeill, employed at a sawmill run by Mr. Gilford, just west from Vestaburg, was injured so severely at the mill on Wednesday, March 2, that he died the following morning in a hospital in this city, of which he had been brought the night before. He was 29 years of age.

McNeill was injured just a few minutes before time to quit work for the day. The last log was being cut. A slab caught on the saw and was hurled through the air, striking

McNeill on the head, crushing his skull. He was brought to Alma to a hospital that night, and the following morning died, without having regained consciousness.

The body was taken to Vestaburg where the funeral services were held Sunday, conducted by Rev. Tanner at the Church of Christ. Interment was made in the Ferris township cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Arva, and two children.

An Ideal Remedy for Constipation.

It would be hard to find a better remedy for constipation than Chamberlain's Tablets. For the best effect they should be taken immediately after supper. They are easy to take and mild and gentle in effect.—98-54

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LEGAL NOTICES

Estate of Charles W. Greenway, Deceased
HEARING CLAIMS
STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 15th day of February, 1921. Present: Hon. James G. Kress, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Charles W. Greenway, Deceased.

The above estate having been admitted to Probate and Ada Terry Greenway appointed administratrix thereof.

It is ordered that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present their claims against said estate and that such claims will be heard by said court on Thursday the 16th day of June, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

It is further ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

A true copy. (Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate.

The Corner Grocery

Will be opened to the public and will supply everything in the grocery and produce line, at a reasonable price. It will be conducted on the cash and carry basis. We solicit the trade of all those who appreciate a square deal every day in the week.

E. A. SMITH, Prop'r.

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We sharpen lawn mowers by special machinery. Our tires are absolutely guaranteed; ask us about this. A few rebuilt bicycles at prices that will make them move fast. A complete line of supplies. Work promptly done.

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SUPPLY

SAGINAW
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Avenue

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Prosperity

SMALL business is essential to our national prosperity and has won for itself an important and an enduring place. But small business, however multiplied, cannot undertake to serve the public in a big way where unity of service is necessary.

This must be accomplished by great, highly specialized organizations, managed honestly and efficiently, and functioning to the benefit of all the people.

Such an organization is the Standard Oil Company (Indiana).

Its business is to refine crude petroleum into the many products needed by the people—to provide a system of distribution which will make them available everywhere, and to sell at a price which is fair to all.

To accomplish this, 25,000 men and women devote all their time, energy, and intelligence to the task, while the stockholders have invested more than \$200,000,000 of capital.

In preparing to meet the demands of industry, agriculture, and motorists throughout the 11 Middle Western states served, the Company is now refining petroleum to the limit of its vast refinery capacity.

It is distributing gasoline, kerosene, and lubricating oils to its bulk stations throughout the territory in order that it may be in position to give immediate service when the Spring and Summer rush comes.

Standard Oil Company

(Indiana)

910 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago

2394

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Prices at Brewer's Cash Market

Pure Lard per lb.	15c
Salt Pork per lb.	14c
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Fancy Stewing Beef per lb.	12 1/2c
Choice Kettle Roasts per lb.	14c
Pure Pork Sausage per lb.	20c

Record Want Ads for Results

We announce the following reduced prices in cars:

Overland

	Old Price	New Price
Touring & Roadster	\$1035	\$895
Coupe	\$1525	\$1425
Sedan	\$1675	\$1475

Willys-Knight

	Old Price	New Price
Touring & Roadster	\$2300	\$2195
Coupe	\$2950	\$2845
Sedan	\$3050	\$2945

F. O. B. Toledo

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Pipeless Furnaces
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Small Size—Installed
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You don't need a heating engineer if you buy a pipeless furnace any more than when you buy a stove.

But perhaps your house can be better heated and ventilated with a Holland Improved Pipeless, or with the Complete Holland Pipe System—the most famous heating plant on earth. We are unbiased and our heating experts will recommend the system that will give you the best Service and Satisfaction.

We have a complete line on display at our Branch Service Office and feel sure that our special early-year prices will interest you.

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All customers are protected against price decline until November 1st, 1921. BUY NOW!

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